

toward repeal of all abortion rights. Columnist John Leo of U.S. News & World Report says that is akin to the gun lobby's argument that a ban on assault weapons must lead to repeal of the Second Amendment.

In a prophecy born of hope, many pundits have been predicting that the right-to-life "extremists" would drastically divide the Republican Party. But 73 House Democrats voted to bar partial-birth abortions; only 15 Republicans opposed the ban. If the ban survives the Senate, President Clinton will probably veto it. The convention that nominated him refused to allow the Democratic governor of Pennsylvania, Bob Casey, who is pro-life, to speak. Pro-choice speakers addressed the 1992 Republican Convention. The two presidential candidates who hoped that a pro-choice stance would resonate among Republicans—Gov. Pete Wilson, Sen. Arlen Specter—have become the first two candidates to fold their tents.

In October in *The New Republic*, Naomi Wolf, a feminist and pro-choice writer, argued that by resorting to abortion rhetoric that recognizes neither life nor death, pro-choice people "risk becoming precisely what our critics charge us with being: callous, selfish and casually destructive men and women who share a cheapened view of human life." Other consequences of a "lexicon of dehumanization" about the unborn are "hardness of heart, lying and political failure." Wolf said that the "fetus means nothing" stance of the pro-choice movement is refuted by common current practices of parents-to-be who have framed sonogram photos and fetal heartbeat stethoscopes in their homes. Young upscale adults of child-bearing age are a solidly pro-choice demographic group. But they enjoy watching their unborn babies on sonograms, responding to outside stimuli, and they read "The Well Baby Book," which says: "Increasing knowledge is increasing the awe and respect we have for the unborn baby and is causing us to regard the unborn baby as a real person long before birth . . ."

Wolf argued for keeping abortion legal but treating it as a matter of moral gravity because "grief and respect are the proper tones for all discussions about choosing to endanger or destroy a manifestation of life." This temperate judgment drew from Jane Johnson, interim president of Planned Parenthood, a denunciation of the "view that there are good and bad reasons for abortion." So, who now are the fanatics?

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2099,
DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank my colleague from California [Mr. LEWIS] the Chairman of the VA/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee, for his work on this bill under difficult circumstances. His diligence and hard work are to be commended.

As a veteran myself, I am particularly sensitive to the importance of keeping our promises to our veterans.

Shortly before the House of Representatives was to consider the conference report on the

VA/HUD and related agencies bill, I learned the Clinton administration, in a "statement of administration policy," had failed to mention the lack of a VA replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base as a reason for a potential Presidential veto. Earlier in the month, the administration had pledged its support to the hospital in a letter from Office of Management and Budget Director Alice Rivlin to the chairman of the House of Appropriations Committee, ROBERT LIVINGSTON.

In light of this apparent reversal of administration policy, I feel that I have no choice but to support the fiscal year 96 VA/HUD Appropriations Bill. It contains \$25 million for a new state-of-the-art VA outpatient clinic at Travis Air Force Base, in addition to a \$400 million increase in the VA medical accounts. This is especially important since every other account in the bill, except those pertaining to veterans, was significantly reduced.

The Travis outpatient facility will meet the immediate health care needs of most Solano County and northern California veterans. I feel a moral obligation to do what is right for my fellow vets and to support any measure that will have a positive impact upon the region.

I was dismayed that the conference committee provided only \$25 million for the outpatient clinic at Travis. I had worked to secure additional funding in light of the Veterans Administration's recommendation of \$39.5 million in funding for the outpatient clinic.

With a projected 85,000 annual outpatient visits, the new facility will meet the needs of most veterans who require ambulatory care. However, I still believe there is the urgent need to attend to the acute medical needs of northern California's veterans.

The very survival of the outpatient facility was placed in jeopardy due to a November 29 stalling tactic that sent the conference report back to committee. I was told by VA Chairman Lewis that the motion could have jeopardized the clinic if the committee had been forced to reallocate funds among competing accounts.

Further delay in enacting the VA/HUD appropriations bill could force the legislation to be integrated into a full-year continuing resolution. Under that scenario, virtually all programs, including veterans' medical care and construction projects, will receive less than under the conference agreement. This would leave the veterans of northern California at a severe disadvantage. Those individuals who could delay or defeat this appropriations bill would be putting their political whims before the needs of our veterans.

By no means should my support for this bill signal that I am abandoning the long-term goal of building a replacement hospital at Travis Air Force Base.

It has become clear to me that full funding for the proposed replacement hospital is not possible this year. I cannot ignore present fiscal realities. Rather than contribute to budget gridlock, I must do what is best for northern California veterans and support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND JOHNSON
OF FORT WALTON BEACH

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell this Chamber a story of remark-

able heroism, a story I recently heard about a World War II veteran who resided in my district and who, in a time of crisis in our Nation's history rose to the defense of his country. I relay this story, because it lets us know that, at a time when cynicism and pessimism seem pervasive, we need to be reminded that we are a nation of heroes and that we can rise to meet the challenges before us. Mr. Raymond Johnson was just a hero, and in the best tradition of the American spirit he rose to the challenges before him for no other reason than that he loved his country.

Raymond Johnson was like any other young American boy growing up before World War II. He enjoyed the innocence of playing baseball, climbing trees, fishing, and the other simplicities of a young life. But when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War II, Raymond Johnson did his duty and went off to serve his country as an infantryman in the U.S. Army. In April 1942, Raymond and hundreds of other young men traveled to Inniskillan, Northern Ireland, for specialized training as an Army scout. After further training in Inverary, Scotland, Raymond and his comrades found themselves in North Africa with the 168th Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division. Their enemy—Field Marshall Rommel's vaunted Afrika Korps.

Soon enough, the 34th Infantry Division received their baptism of fire during the Allied invasion of North Africa on November 17, 1942. Raymond served gallantly in battle during two major campaigns in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia. After being bombarded both day and night by German artillery fire for over 1 month, the 34th Infantry found themselves divided and in disarray. One morning, just before dawn, Raymond and his comrades found themselves encircled by German tanks and infantry. Those American soldiers who were not machine gunned immediately found their positions overrun and themselves taken prisoner. That morning marked what would become 2½ years of hell for Raymond Johnson in Nazi prisoner of war camps in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, and ultimately the heart of the German interior.

Meanwhile, Raymond's family had no word of their son's fate. Reported missing, probably killed in action, the family feared for the worst. Then, a Canadian ham radio operator monitoring Vatican City Radio recorded the names of American prisoners of war that a Vatican City envoy had visited in a Nazi-controlled camp near Mount Vesuvius. Hearing the name Raymond Johnson and his home town broadcast over the radio, the ham radio operator contacted the Johnson family, giving them the first word that their son was alive. Despite his capture, the Johnson family, steadfast in their Roman Catholic faith, thanked God that their son was alive and that a priest had visited the men, giving them the sacrament of communion. Faith in God and confidence in their country were all that the Johnson family had to sustain them for some time to come.

Department of State Cables 446, 464, 579, and 649 mentioned Raymond Johnson as being sighted in Nazi POW Camps 7A and 3B near Furstonberg along with other prisoners, but the family was told nothing more than that their Raymond was a prisoner of war and that his fate was uncertain. Forced to labor on German public works projects and later on German farms, Raymond, like his fellow

POW's, became emaciated from extreme hunger and his health declined. Dysentery, infections, work injuries, and TB ravaged the men held by the Nazis in the dreaded stalags and Raymond Johnson was not immune. By the spring of 1945, near death, weighing only 98 pounds, suffering from dysentery and having lost all of his teeth because of malnutrition, Raymond and most of his comrades had survived almost 2½ years as prisoners of war, subjected to constant hardship and Gestapo interrogation. Prisoners were dying at the rate of three or four dead a day. Still, secure in his faith in both God and country, Raymond did not give up hope that he would be liberated and see his home and family again. Raymond's prayers would not go unanswered. As the Irish proverb goes, "God is just but He takes His time."

Almost as suddenly as he became a prisoner of war, events transpired that would change Raymond's life for the better. On Friday, April 13, 1945, Raymond's prayers were answered. The men of Nazi Stalag 3B heard thunder in the distance. In a state of panic, German guards began shooting some prisoners and locked the rest in their barracks as the thunder loomed nearer. That thunder soon was recognized as artillery fire. The artillery fire became the sounds of tanks in battle. The sounds of tank fire transformed into the sound of tank treads. The tank treads became so loud that the POW's huddled on the floor together fearing that the Germans would make good on their threat to kill them before they could be liberated. The commotion outside the barracks was so loud that many of the men later reported being almost deafened until the next sound that they heard was the barracks doors being thrown open and an American GI yelling, "You're safe now, boys. We've come to take you home!" A day that is feared by the superstitious of the world, Friday the 13th, thereafter became Raymond's special day for the rest of his life.

Although liberated, Raymond's life still weighed in the balance. At the fittingly named Camp Lucky, Raymond almost died from his state of malnutrition several times. After 3 harrowing weeks, medics finally approved Raymond to be placed aboard a hospital ship heading for America. Enroute, men continued to die and were buried at sea. Contemplating the hardships he had endured, Raymond feared that it would be both senseless and ironic if he should die at sea before seeing his family again. Raymond continued to pray that God would spare his life. Once again Raymond's prayers were answered.

This story would end here and would not be of note had it not been for one simple thing. A nation anxious to return to normal, eager to discharge veterans as quickly as they could be brought back home from the war in Europe and the Pacific, became a nation too busy to honor its heroes. Raymond Johnson never received the recognition that he deserved for serving his country with distinction and honor in both its saddest and finest moments.

Raymond Johnson eventually regained much of his health. However, doctors told him that he would never be the same after having suffered the fate of Nazi prison camps. Humbly, Raymond went on with his life, devout in his faith, and proud of his service to his country. Like most veterans, Raymond did not complain much. They were just thankful to be home with their families. In fact, Raymond

Johnson lead a modest but happy life, barely speaking of his experiences in the Nazi stalags. Few people could have guessed what the war had been like for Raymond.

Unfortunately, Raymond left this life on October 20, 1981, after suffering from cancer. Today, Raymond Johnson is survived by his widow, Mildred Johnson of Fort Walton Beach, FL, who attends St. Mary's Catholic Church regularly and is active in the Legion of Mary. Raymond was fortunate to have seven children, four sons, Robert, a teacher in Fort Walton Beach, Dennis a postal worker, a Roman Catholic Priest, Kevin, and Thomas who works for the State of Florida, and three daughters, Sandra, Katherine, and Mary, as well as 10 grandchildren, including a namesake, Raymond. While it may be too late to honor Raymond Johnson personally, this Christmas season I am pleased to be able to present to his family the medals and awards that this hero has been owed for over 50 years—the Bronze Star Medal, the Prisoner of War Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the coveted Combat Infantryman's Badge. These decorations pale in comparison to the gift that Raymond gave his country but they are all that a humble nation can give to pay tribute to one of its heroes. I am pleased to know that the First Congressional District of Florida can boast of the merits of an American the likes of Raymond Johnson and his fine family. Mr. Speaker, we owe this man, and all of our Nation's veterans our most sincere thanks and gratitude.

TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lincoln Technical Institute, the largest training company in the Nation, on its 50th anniversary.

Lincoln Technical Institute [LTI] was founded in Newark, NJ, in 1946 to provide returning war veterans with practical job skills. Since that time, the institute has grown to develop and offer one of the Nation's most innovative and effective job training programs at 14 schools in 6 States.

The first programs offered in 1946 trained veterans in the fields of heating and air-conditioning. Training in automatic transmissions was added soon after. That began LTI's expertise in the automotive field. Over the years, courses in electronic and computer technologies and mechanical and architectural drafting have been added. In 1993, LTI acquired the Cittone Institute which added office focused programs such as court reporting and computerized accounting skills training. Today, LTI offers specialized training in 12 fields.

Students at LTI come from many different stages of life. Some are recent high school graduates that enroll in LTI to start their career. Others decide to make a career change and attend LTI to learn the skills necessary for their new profession. There are also a number of students who go to LTI through their employers in an effort to improve their skills.

Most impressive is that over 90 percent of LTI's graduates are working in the fields for

which they trained. This reflects not only the quality of the students, but the faculty, curriculum and state-of-the-art equipment LTI uses in its schools and classrooms.

I commend Lincoln Technical Institute for its dedication to the education and training of its students. In the competitive job market of the 1990s, Lincoln Technical Institute is essential to help many Americans reach their career objectives. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing this fine institution a happy anniversary and another 50 years of continued success.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION'S FATAL FLAWS

HON. TOBY ROTH

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. ROTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to the excellent article on bilingual education that appeared in the September 25, 1995 U.S. News & World Report, "Tongue-tied in the schools." The author, Susan Headden, makes a compelling argument that bilingual education is a public policy failure that has been kept alive by bureaucratic inertia.

Ms. Headden's assessment of the program's effectiveness is unambiguous; she writes that "along with crumbling classrooms and violence in the hallways, bilingual education has emerged as one of the dark spots on the grim tableau of American public education."

The article goes on to show that current bilingual education programs are inadequate and actually counter-productive in helping new Americans and their children integrate into American society by learning English. Surveys have shown that today's immigrants want a chance for their children to learn English because it is the key to success in America.

Transitional bilingual education has failed to meet the test Congress established for it in 1978—namely, that it improves students' performance in English. The research evidence on transitional bilingual education indicates that it may, in fact, have a negative impact on students in these programs.

The first step we must take is to eliminate the bilingual education bureaucracy which has a vested interest in continuing along the same failed path. The money the Federal Government spends on bilingual education could be better spent on English classes for immigrants and intensive English instruction for their children. An afterschool program could do these children far more good than 6 years of a bilingual education program.

In the past, America has always been a shining example of how people from all corners of the world can live and work together in cultural harmony. This was the case because our country has enjoyed a common and unifying bond, the English language. We must preserve this bond to protect our future as a nation.

Bilingual education is a threat to that unity, because it doesn't help teach children English. That's why I introduced the Declaration of Official Language Act. In addition to declaring English our official language, H.R. 739 also seeks to repeal Federal mandates—like bilingual